AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a concave shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said concave region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said concave region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said concave region and said tip region.

21. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave region comprises:

a region having a substantially C-shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 21, wherein said C-shaped region comprises:

a region having a substantially half-tube shaped cross-section.

23. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said concave region and said tip region, said concave region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

24. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said concave region and said tip region, said concave region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said concave region.

25. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

26. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 25, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

27. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein a line through the center of the space defined by said concave region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

28. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave region further comprises:

an aperture positioned at the trough of said concave region.

29. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region.

30. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said concave region.

31. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said concave region.

32. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

33. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

34. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region.

35. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

36. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.

37. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

38. (Previously Presented) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a substantially forked shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said forked region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said forked region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said forked region and said tip region.

39. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

40. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said forked region.

41. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region comprises a pair of elongate elements each having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said proximate ends of said elongate elements are joined to each other.

42. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 41, wherein said elongate elements each have a radius of curvature at said distal ends of said elongate elements.

43. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 42, wherein when said forked region is in proximity to said tip region, said radius of curvature is curved away from said tip region.

44. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

45. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 44, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

46. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

47. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.

48. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of said forked region.

49. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the said forked region.

50. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

51. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

52. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.

53. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

54. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.

55. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

56. (Previously Presented) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a looped shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said looped region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said looped region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said looped region.

57. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

58. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said looped region.

59. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said looped region comprises an elongate looped shaped element having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said distal end of said elongate element has a radius of curvature.

60. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein the longitudinal axis of said proximal region of said looped element is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

61. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 59, wherein when said looped region is in proximity to said tip region, said elongate element curves away from said tip region.

62. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

63. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 62, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

64. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

65. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

66. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

67. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

68. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

69. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

70. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

71. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said looped region.

72. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

73. (New) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first elongate arm having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends and a structure proximate said distal end that forms at least a portion of a surface of a concave-shaped region having a longitudinal axis substantially aligned with said longitudinal axis of said first elongate arm, said concave-shaped region being configured to receive and support the electrode assembly; and

a second elongate arm having proximal and distal ends and a tip region disposed proximate to said distal end of said second elongate arm;

wherein said first and second elongate arms are pivotally connected to each other such that application of a manual force to a region adjacent said proximate ends of said first and second arms causes said tip region and said concave-shaped region to travel toward each

other to retain the electrode assembly in a space between said concave-shaped region and said tip region.

74. (New) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm is a contiguous concave-shaped structure having a substantially half-tube-shaped cross-section.

75. (New) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm comprises a substantially forked-shaped region having tines spaced to receive and support the electrode assembly, wherein surfaces of said tines define said concave-shaped region.

76. (New) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm comprises a looped-shaped region configured to receive and support the electrode assembly.